

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 SPM-01

HEW-08 EB-11 DRC-01 /206 W
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R 081455Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3027

UNCLAS USUN 0807

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG, UN, SPOP

SUBJECT: POPULATION COMMISSION - THIRD REPORT

1. POPCOM MARCH 6 LEFT UNDECIDED PROBLEM OF TAKING CONFERENCE DECISIONS BY CONSENSUS COMMENTED ON SYG'S REPORT ON SECOND INQUIRY TO GOVTS; DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH CONSIDERATION OF BASIC CONFERENCE DOCS DESPITE THEIR PARTIAL UNABILABILITY; MADE SOME REVISIONS IN CONFERENCE TIMETABLE AND HEARD ASST SYG SIPPILA LAUD RECENT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM WHICH CRITICIZED UN DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION.

2. IN RESPONSE INSISTENCE US AND OTHERS FOR DEFINITION OF "CONSENSUS", ROME DEL GAVE FOLLOWING: QTE SITUATION IN WHICH DECISION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VERY IMPORTANT MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE MAY BE TAKEN BY UNANIMITY OF REPS PRESENT WHO CONSTITUTE QUORUM UNQ. BRAZIL INCONSISTENTLY ADDED THAT CONSENSUS COMPATIBLE WITH ABSTENTION OR RESERVATION BUT NOT WITH OPPOSITION. LATER WITH INDIA MANEUVERING TO MEDIATE, FOLLOWING REVISED TEXT CIRCULATED BY BRAZIL, INDIA AND ROMANIA TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNEX TO RULES: QUE POPCOM CONSIDERS THAT, DUE TO NATURE OF PROBLEMS, IT IS HIGHLY DESIREABLE FOR WPC TO REACH DECISIONS ON CERTAIN IMPORTANT ISSUES ON BASIS CONSENSUS, RATHER THAN VOTE. ALSO EMPHASIZES THAT RIGHT OF EVERY DEL TO SET FORTH ITS VIEW IN FULL NOT PREJUDICED BY THIS PROCEDURE UNQ COMMITTEE DECISION POSTPONED. US STILL NEGOTIATING.

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3. SYG'S REPORT ON SECOND INQUIRY RE POP AND DEVELOPMENT,

BASED ON REPLIES FROM 74 GOVTS, RECEIVED GENERAL PRAISE. US REP'S LAMENT AT LACK OF REPLIES FROM 3 LARGEST LDC'S PROMPTED BRAZIL TO EXPLAIN THAT BRAZIL SPECIFIC POP POLICY STILL UNDER REVIW BY GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP AND THAT WHEN IT FINISHES, BRAZIL WILL SUBMIT REPLY. PANAMA AND PERU URGED CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS BY REGIONAL MEETINGS. ECUADOR OPINED THAT REPORT SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT POP GROWTH HAS BEEN IMPORTANT FACTOR FAVORING DEVELOPMENT IN MANY COUNTRIES. FRANCE COMPLAINED AT FAILURE OF REPORT TO CORRELATE POP GROWTH HAS BEEN IMPORTNAT FACTOR FAVORING DEVELOPMENT IN MANY COUNTRIES. FRANCE COMPLAINED AT FAILURE OF REPORT TO CORRELATE POP GOWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. SECRETARIAT (POP DIV CHIEF TABAH) REPLIED STUDIES SHOW IS NO POSITIVE CORRELATION.

4. THORSEN (SWEDEN) RESUMED COMPLAINT RE LACK COMPLETION BASIC CONFERENCE DOCUMENTATION. PROPOSED AND REJECTED LATER RESUME POPCOM SESSION OR REPORTING FAILURE POPCOM MISSION TO ECOSOC BUT SUGGESTED EITHER (1) USING SYMPOSIUM PAPERS AS BASIS, ELEVATING THEM TO STATUS CONF. DOCS, OR (2) REVISING THE TWO DOCS NOW AVAILABLE AND USING THE UNEDITED OTHERS PLUS SYMPOSIUM REPORTS FOR THE REST. ENSUING DISCUSSION REPEATED POINTS PREVIOUS DAY, REVEALED GENERAL FEELING THAT SYMPOSIA DOCS UNSATISFACTORY AS CONFERENCE DOCS AND LED US REP DRAPER TO SUM UP CONSENSUS BY SUGGESTING THAT COM. PROCEED TO DO BEST WITH DOCS WE DO HAVE AVAILABLE IN ALL LANGUAGES, USE ENGLISH VERSIONS OF REST AND GIVE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS RIGHT TO MAKE SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS BY MAIL WHEN OTHER LANGUAGE VERSIONS AVAILABLE. SAUVY(FRANCE) RETORTED WASPISHLY THAT SUCH DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FRENCH UNACCEPAABLE.

5. REVISED ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR CONFERENCE CIRTICIZED FOR LISTING SUB-ITEMS (FOLLOWING PREVIOUS SUGGESTION OF US DEL) AS MISLEADING IN IMPLYING INCLUSIVENESS. THEY WECE ELIMINATED WITH US AGREEMENT AND RELATED TO EXPLANATORY NOTE.

6. SECRETARIAT PROPOSED TIMETABLE CAME IN FOR FOLLOWING CRITICISMS: (A) IN UK VIEW UK AND OTHERS, IT UNFAIR TO LUMP ITEMS 8 (POP AND DEVELOPMENT) AND 9 (POP AND FAMILY) IN ONE COMMITTEE AND ITEM 9 (POP RESOURCESAND ENVIRONMENT) IN ANOTHER. USSR PROPOSED ON COMM FOR EACH AND WORKING GROUP OF WHOLE FOR PLAN OF ACTION. SECRETARIAT CONTINUED STRESS THAT PHYSICAL CONTRAINTS OF SPACE AND INTERPRETERS PERMIT ONLY FOUR SIMULTANEOUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS. PROMISED REVISE UNCLASSIFIED

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ALLOCATION AND WORK SCHEDULE IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSION FOR LATER CONSIDERATION.

(B) RE PROPOSED SIX DAY PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS, UK AND SWEDEN FELT THIS TOO LONG. SEVERAL DELS STRESSED SUCH MEETINGS SHOULD DEAL ONLY WITH CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE, NOT SUBSTANCE. PERIOD WILL BE REDUCED TO 2 OR 3 DAYS, FOR DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURAL ITEMS.

7. ASST SYG SILPPILA REPORTED ORALLY ON RECENT INTERNATIONAL

FORUM ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT,
STRESSING ITS CRITICISM OF SECRETARIAT DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION
AS DEMOGRAPHIC GOBBLEDEGOOK AND TREATING WOMEN INADEQUATELY.
SHE WAS GENEROUS IN HER GRATITUDE TO US AS HOST AND BACKER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, POPULATION, POLICIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN00807
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740356/aaaabzzk.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPULATION COMMISSION - THIRD REPORT
TAGS: AORG, SPOP, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005